WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method of purchasing items comprising:

storing first mapping information for a first plurality of items, the first mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with items in the first plurality of items;

receiving a purchase request comprising information related to a first project from a computer system;

determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

communicating information related to the second plurality of purchasable units to the computer system.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the purchase request comprising information related to the first project comprises:

accessing a web page displaying the information related to the first project; and

initiating the purchase request using the web page.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the information related to the first project comprises a first project identifier identifying the first project; and

determining the second plurality of items from the information related to the first project comprises:

storing second mapping information for a plurality of project identifiers, the plurality of project identifiers including the first project identifier, the second mapping information associating at least one item from the first plurality of items with each project identifier in the plurality of project identifiers;

based upon the second mapping information, determining items from the first plurality of items associated with the first project identifier; and

including the items associated with the first project identifier in the second plurality of items.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the first project comprises:

storing second mapping information for a first plurality of item descriptors, the second mapping information associating each item descriptor in the first plurality of item descriptors with at least one item from the first plurality of items;

extracting a second plurality of item descriptors from the information related to the first project, the second plurality of item descriptors included in the first plurality of item descriptors; and

determining the second plurality of items corresponding to the second plurality of item descriptors based upon the second mapping information.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the information related to the first project comprises scaling information for the first project, the method further comprising:

determining, from the information related to the first project, quantities associated with the second plurality of items; and

scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items based upon the scaling information for the first project.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items comprises:

for each item in the second plurality of items:

determining a first value based on the scaling information; and

multiplying the quantity associated with the item by the first value to determine a scaled quantity for the item.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein determining the second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the first mapping information comprises determining items in the second plurality of purchasable items based on the scaled quantities associated with items in the second plurality of items.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items comprises:

storing scaling rules indicating rules for scaling quantities associated with items in the second plurality of items; and

for each item in the second plurality of items:

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6   determining a first value based on the scaling information and the

7   scaling rule for the item; and

8   multiplying the quantity associated with the item by the first value to

9   determine a scaled quantity for the item.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein determining the second plurality of

2   purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the first mapping

3   information comprises:

4   for each item in the second plurality of items:

5   based upon the first mapping information, determining purchasable

6   units from the first plurality of purchasable units associated with the item; and

7   including the purchasable units associated with the item in the second

8   plurality of purchasable units.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting the information

2   related to the second plurality of purchasable units.

1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein outputting the information related to

2   the second plurality of purchasable units comprises:

3   generating a presentation list based upon information related to the second

4   plurality of purchasable units; and

5   displaying the presentation list.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the presentation list is generated

2   based upon user preferences.

1   13.   The method of claim 1 wherein the first project is selectable from a

2   group of projects including a recipe for preparing a food dish, a project for building a

3   computer, a project to repair a leaking faucet, and a project to build a house.

1   14.   A computer-implemented method of purchasing items comprising:

2   storing first mapping information for a first plurality of items, the first

3   mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the

4   first plurality of items;

5   receiving a purchase request comprising information related to a first project

6   and a second project from a computer system;

7   determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the

8   first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

9   determining a third plurality of items from the information related to the

10   second project, the third plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

11   determining a fourth plurality of items including items from the second

12   plurality of items and the third plurality of items;

13   determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the

14   fourth plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

15   communicating information related to the second plurality of purchasable

16   units to the computer system.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein:

2   the second plurality of items includes a first item and a first quantity

3   associated with the first item;

4   the third plurality of items includes the first item and a second quantity

5   associated with the first item; and

6   determining the fourth plurality of items including items from the second

7   plurality of items and the third plurality of items comprises:

8   including the first item in the fourth plurality of items; and

9   associating a third quantity with the first item in the fourth plurality of

10   items, wherein the third quantity is a sum of the first quantity and the second quantity.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein:

2   the first quantity is associated with a first unit of measure;

3   the second quantity is associated with a second unit of measure; and

4   associating the third quantity with the first item in the fourth plurality of items

5   comprises:

6   if the first unit of measure is different from the second unit of measure,

7   converting the second quantity to a fourth quantity having the first unit of measure; and

8   determining the third quantity by adding the first quantity and the

9   fourth quantity.

1   17.   A computer-implemented method of purchasing items for a first

2   project comprising:

3   storing an information model comprising information for a first plurality of

4 items, the information describing attributes of the first plurality of items, substitute items for

5 the first plurality of items, and hierarchical relationships between the items in the first

6 plurality of items,

7   storing first mapping information for the first plurality of items, the first

8 mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with items in

9 the first plurality of items;

10   receiving a purchase request comprising information related to the first project

11 from a computer system;

12   determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the

13 first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

14   determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the

15 second plurality of items based upon the information stored by the information model and the

16 first mapping information; and

17   communicating information related to the second plurality of purchasable

18 units to the computer system.

1   18. The method of claim 17 wherein determining the second plurality of

2 purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the information

3 stored by the information model and the first mapping information comprises:

4   determining a substitute item for at least one item in the second plurality of

5 items based upon information stored by the information model;

6   determining a purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item based

7 upon the first mapping information; and

8   including the purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item in the

9 second plurality of purchasable units.

1   19. The method of claim 17 wherein the hierarchical relationships between

2 items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a first item and a

3 second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating that the second

4 item is a specialization of the first item.

1   20. The method of claim 17 wherein the hierarchical relationships between

2 items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a first item and a

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3   second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating that the second

4   item is a component of the first item.

1   21.   A computer-implemented method of shopping for a project

2   comprising:

3   accessing a web page displaying information related to the project;

4   generating a purchase request based upon the information related to the

5   project;

6   in response to the purchase request, receiving information related to a plurality

7   of purchasable units, the plurality of purchasable units corresponding to a plurality of items

8   described by the information related to the project; and

9   selecting at least one purchasable unit from the plurality of purchasable units

10   for purchase.

1   22.   A system for purchasing items comprising:

2   a first computer system; and

3   a second computer system coupled to the first computer system;

4   wherein the second computer system is configured to:

5   store first mapping information for a first plurality of items, the first

6   mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with items in

7   the first plurality of items;

8   receive a purchase request comprising information related to a first

9   project from the first computer system;

10   determine a second plurality of items from the information related to

11   the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

12   determine a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the

13   second plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

14   communicate information related to the second plurality of purchasable

15   units to the first computer system.

1   23.   The system of claim 22 wherein:

2   the information related to the first project comprises a first project identifier

3   identifying the first project; and

4   in order to determine the second plurality of items from the information

5   related to the first project, the second computer system is configured to:

6   store second mapping information for a plurality of project identifiers,

7   the plurality of project identifiers including the first project identifier, the second mapping

8   information associating at least one item from the first plurality of items with each project

9   identifier in the plurality of project identifiers;

10   based upon the second mapping information, determine items from the

11   first plurality of items associated with the first project identifier; and

12   include the items associated with the first project identifier in the

13   second plurality of items.

1   24.   The system of claim 22 wherein in order to determine a second

2   plurality of items from the information related to the first project, the second computer

3   system is configured to:

4   store second mapping information for a first plurality of item

5   descriptors, the second mapping information associating each item descriptor in the first

6   plurality of item descriptors with at least one item from the first plurality of items;

7   extract a second plurality of item descriptors from the information

8   related to the first project, the second plurality of item descriptors included in the first

9   plurality of item descriptors; and

10   determine the second plurality of items corresponding to the second

11   plurality of item descriptors based upon the second mapping information.

1   25.   The system of claim 22 wherein the information related to the first

2   project comprises scaling information for the first project, and the second computer system is

3   further configured to:

4   determine, from the information related to the first project, quantities

5   associated with the second plurality of items; and

6   scale the quantities associated with the second plurality of items based upon

7   the scaling information for the first project.

1   26.   The system of claim 25 wherein in order to scale the quantities

2   associated with the second plurality of items, the second computer system is configured to:

3   for each item in the second plurality of items:

4   determine a first value based on the scaling information; and

5   multiply the quantity associated with the item by the first value to

6   determine a scaled quantity for the item.

1   27.   The system of claim 26 wherein in order to determine the second

2 plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the

3 first mapping information, the second computer system is configured to determine items in

4 the second plurality of purchasable items based on the scaled quantities associated with items

5 in the second plurality of items.

1   28.   The system of claim 25 wherein in order to scale the quantities

2 associated with the second plurality of items, the second computer system is configured to:

3   store scaling rules indicating rules for scaling quantities associated with items

4 in the second plurality of items; and

5   for each item in the second plurality of items:

6   determine a first value based on the scaling information and the scaling

7 rule for the item; and

8   multiply the quantity associated with the item by the first value to

9 determine a scaled quantity for the item.

1   29.   The system of claim 22 wherein in order to determine the second

2 plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the

3 first mapping information, the second computer system is configured to:

4   for each item in the second plurality of items:

5   based upon the first mapping information, determine purchasable units

6 from the first plurality of purchasable units associated with the item; and

7   include the purchasable units associated with the item in the second

8 plurality of purchasable units.

1   30.   The system of claim 22 wherein the first computer system is

2 configured to output the information related to the second plurality of purchasable units

3 received from the second computer system.

1   31.   A data-processing system for purchasing items comprising:

2   a storage device; and

3   a processor coupled to the storage device,

4   the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor, and

5   the processor operative with the program to:

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6   receive a purchase request comprising information related to a first

7 project and a second project from a computer system;

8   determine a second plurality of items from the information related to

9 the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

10   determine a third plurality of items from the information related to the

11 second project, the third plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

12   determine a fourth plurality of items including items from the second

13 plurality of items and the third plurality of items;

14   determine a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the

15 fourth plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

16   communicate the information related to the second plurality of

17 purchasable units to the computer system.

1   32.   The system of claim 31 wherein:

2   the second plurality of items includes a first item and a first quantity

3 associated with the first item;

4   the third plurality of items includes the first item and a second quantity

5 associated with the first item; and

6   in order to determine the fourth plurality of items including items from the

7 second plurality of items and the third plurality of items, the processor is further operative

8 with the program to:

9   include the first item in the fourth plurality of items; and

10   associate a third quantity with the first item in the fourth plurality of

11 items, wherein the third quantity is a sum of the first quantity and the second quantity.

1   33.   The system of claim 32 wherein:

2   the first quantity is associated with a first unit of measure;

3   the second quantity is associated with a second unit of measure; and

4   in order to associate the third quantity with the first item in the fourth plurality

5 of items, the processor is further operative with the program to:

6   if the first unit of measure is different from the second unit of measure,

7 convert the second quantity to a fourth quantity having the first unit of measure; and

8   determine the third quantity by adding the first quantity and the fourth

9 quantity.

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34.   An apparatus for purchasing items for a first project comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory configured to store:

an information model comprising information for a first plurality of items, the information describing attributes of the first plurality of items, substitute items for the first plurality of items, and hierarchical relationships between the items in the first plurality of items,

first mapping information for the first plurality of items, the first mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with items in the first plurality of items; and

a plurality of code modules for execution by the processor, the plurality of code modules comprising:

a code module for receiving a purchase request comprising information related to the first project from a first computer system;

a code module for determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

a code module for determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the information stored by the information model and the first mapping information; and

a code module for communicating information related to the second plurality of purchasable units to the first computer system.

35.   The system of claim 34 wherein the code module for determining the second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the information stored by the information model and the first mapping information comprises:

a code module for determining a substitute item for at least one item in the second plurality of items based upon information stored by the information model;

a code module for determining a purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item based upon the first mapping information; and

a code module for including the purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item in the second plurality of purchasable units.

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1   36.   The system of claim 34 wherein the hierarchical relationships between

2   items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a first item and a

3   second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating that the second

4   item is a specialization of the first item.

1   37.   The system of claim 34 wherein the hierarchical relationships between

2   items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a first item and a

3   second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating that the second

4   item is a component of the first item.

1   38.   A data-processing system for shopping for a project comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory coupled to the processor, the memory configured to store a plurality

4   of code modules for execution by the processor, the plurality of code modules comprising:

5   a code module for accessing a web page displaying information related

6   to the project;

7   a code module for generating a purchase request based upon the

8   information related to the project;

9   in response to the purchase request, a code module for receiving

10   information related to a plurality of purchasable units, the plurality of purchasable units

11   corresponding to a plurality of items described by the information related to the project; and

12   a code module for selecting at least one purchasable unit from the

13   plurality of purchasable units for purchase.

1   39.   A computer program product stored on a computer-readable storage

2   medium for purchasing items, the computer program product comprising:

3   code for storing first mapping information for a first plurality of items, the first

4   mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with items in

5   the first plurality of items;

6   code for receiving a purchase request comprising information related to a first

7   project from a computer system;

8   code for determining a second plurality of items from the information related

9   to the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

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10   code for determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to

11   the second plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

12   code for communicating outputting information related to the second plurality

13   of purchasable units to the computer system.

1   40.   The computer program product of claim 39 wherein the code for

2   receiving the purchase request comprising information related to the first project comprises:

3   code for accessing a web page displaying the information related to the first

4   project; and

5   code for initiating the purchase request using the web page.

1   41.   The computer program product of claim 39 wherein:

2   the information related to the first project comprises a first project identifier

3   identifying the first project; and

4   the code for determining the second plurality of items from the information

5   related to the first project comprises:

6   code for storing second mapping information for a plurality of project

7   identifiers, the plurality of project identifiers including the first project identifier, the second

8   mapping information associating at least one item from the first plurality of items with each

9   project identifier in the plurality of project identifiers;

10   based upon the second mapping information, code for determining

11   items from the first plurality of items associated with the first project identifier; and

12   code for including the items associated with the first project identifier

13   in the second plurality of items.

1   42.   The computer program product of claim 39 wherein the code for

2   determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the first project

3   comprises:

4   code for storing second mapping information for a first plurality of item

5   descriptors, the second mapping information associating each item descriptor in the first

6   plurality of item descriptors with at least one item from the first plurality of items;

7   code for extracting a second plurality of item descriptors from the information

8   related to the first project, the second plurality of item descriptors included in the first

9   plurality of item descriptors; and

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10	code for determining the second plurality of items corresponding to the second

11	plurality of item descriptors based upon the second mapping information.

1	43.	The computer program product of claim 39 wherein the information

2	related to the first project comprises scaling information for the first project, the computer

3	program product further comprising:

4	code for determining, from the information related to the first project,

5	quantities associated with the second plurality of items; and

6	code for scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items

7	based upon the scaling information for the first project.

1	44.	The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the code for

2	scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items comprises:

3	for each item in the second plurality of items:

4	code for determining a first value based on the scaling information;

5	and

6	code for multiplying the quantity associated with the item by the first

7	value to determine a scaled quantity for the item.

1	45.	The computer program product of claim 44 wherein the code for

2	determining the second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of

3	items based upon the first mapping information comprises code for determining items in the

4	second plurality of purchasable items based on the scaled quantities associated with items in

5	the second plurality of items.

1	46.	The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the code for

2	scaling the quantities associated with the second plurality of items comprises:

3	code for storing scaling rules indicating rules for scaling quantities associated

4	with items in the second plurality of items; and

5	for each item in the second plurality of items:

6	code for determining a first value based on the scaling information and

7	the scaling rule for the item; and

8	code for multiplying the quantity associated with the item by the first

9	value to determine a scaled quantity for the item.

47. The computer program product of claim 39 wherein the code for determining the second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of items based upon the first mapping information comprises:

for each item in the second plurality of items:

based upon the first mapping information, code for determining purchasable units from the first plurality of purchasable units associated with the item; and

code for including the purchasable units associated with the item in the second plurality of purchasable units.

48. The computer program product of claim 39 further comprising code for outputting the information related to the second plurality of purchasable units.

49. The computer program product of claim 48 wherein the code for outputting the information related to the second plurality of purchasable units comprises:

code for generating a presentation list based upon information related to the second plurality of purchasable units; and

code for displaying the presentation list.

50. The computer program product of claim 49 wherein the presentation list is generated based upon user preferences.

51. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable storage medium for purchasing items, the computer program product comprising:

code for storing first mapping information for a first plurality of items, the first mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the first plurality of items;

code for receiving a purchase request comprising information related to a first project and a second project from a computer system;

code for determining a second plurality of items from the information related to the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

code for determining a third plurality of items from the information related to the second project, the third plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

code for determining a fourth plurality of items including items from the second plurality of items and the third plurality of items;

14   code for determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to

15 the fourth plurality of items based upon the first mapping information; and

16   code for communicating information related to the second plurality of

17 purchasable units to the computer system.

1   52. The computer program product of claim 51 wherein:

2   the second plurality of items includes a first item and a first quantity

3 associated with the first item;

4   the third plurality of items includes the first item and a second quantity

5 associated with the first item; and

6   the code for determining the fourth plurality of items including items from the

7 second plurality of items and the third plurality of items comprises:

8   code for including the first item in the fourth plurality of items; and

9   code for associating a third quantity with the first item in the fourth

10 plurality of items, wherein the third quantity is a sum of the first quantity and the second

11 quantity.

1   53. The computer program product of claim 52 wherein:

2   the first quantity is associated with a first unit of measure;

3   the second quantity is associated with a second unit of measure; and

4   the code for associating the third quantity with the first item in the fourth

5 plurality of items comprises:

6   if the first unit of measure is different from the second unit of measure,

7 code for converting the second quantity to a fourth quantity having the first unit of measure;

8 and

9   code for determining the third quantity by adding the first quantity and

10 the fourth quantity.

1   54. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable storage

2 medium for purchasing items for a first project, the computer program product comprising:

3   code for storing an information model comprising information for a first

4 plurality of items, the information describing attributes of the first plurality of items,

5 substitute items for the first plurality of items, and hierarchical relationships between the

6 items in the first plurality of items,

7   code for storing first mapping information for the first plurality of items, the

8 first mapping information identifying a first plurality of purchasable units associated with

9 items in the first plurality of items;

10   code for receiving a purchase request comprising information related to the

11 first project from a first computer system;

12   code for determining a second plurality of items from the information related

13 to the first project, the second plurality of items included in the first plurality of items;

14   code for determining a second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to

15 the second plurality of items based upon the information stored by the information model and

16 the first mapping information; and

17   code for communicating information related to the second plurality of

18 purchasable units to the first computer system.

1   55.   The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the code for

2 determining the second plurality of purchasable units corresponding to the second plurality of

3 items based upon the information stored by the information model and the first mapping

4 information comprises:

5   code for determining a substitute item for at least one item in the second

6 plurality of items based upon information stored by the information model;

7   code for determining a purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item

8 based upon the first mapping information; and

9   code for including the purchasable unit corresponding to the substitute item in

10 the second plurality of purchasable units.

1   56.   The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the hierarchical

2 relationships between items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a

3 first item and a second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating

4 that the second item is a specialization of the first item.

1   57.   The computer program product of claim 54 wherein the hierarchical

2 relationships between items in the first plurality of items include a first relationship between a

3 first item and a second item from the first plurality of items, the first relationship indicating

4 that the second item is a component of the first item.

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1   58.   A computer program product stored on a computer-readable storage

2   medium for shopping for a project comprising:

3   code for accessing a web page displaying information related to the project;

4   code for generating a purchase request based upon the information related to

5   the project;

6   in response to the purchase request, code for receiving information related to a

7   plurality of purchasable units, the plurality of purchasable units corresponding to a plurality

8   of items described by the information related to the project; and

9   code for selecting at least one purchasable unit from the plurality of

10   purchasable units for purchase.